



East Texas State Fair 2021 Public Speaking Contest

Dates and Deadlines

2021 Contest Date: Saturday, September 25

On-time Registration Deadline: Friday, September 3

- \$15 registration fee
- All documentation (Statement of Originality, Abstract) due at time of registration

Late Registration Deadline: Wednesday, September 8

- \$25 entry for late registration

Documentation

Documentation for the 2021 contest will include:

- One half to one page summary (abstract) of your speech
- Completed statement of originality
- All documents must be submitted in PDF format

Send documentation to Dylan Bacon, contest superintendent, at dylanbacon1@gmail.com

Contest Rules

1. To Enter: Complete Online Registration from the ShoWorks link on the Public Speaking page of the ETSF website (www.etstatefair.com) and pay On-Time Entry Fee of \$15 or Late Fee Registration of \$25.

2. Eligibility: The contest is open to students from all schools – public, private and home school – and specialty groups, including FFA, FCCLA, or 4-H club members. All contestants must be academically eligible for competition per regulations from the Texas Education Agency’s “No Pass No Play” rule. A section of the Statement of Originality will verify eligibility.

3. Age Groups: The contest will be divided into two age groups:

Junior- Ages 8-13

Senior- Ages 14-18

Age as of July 31, 2021

4. Contest Format:

- The contest will be held over a one-day period with preliminary contests starting at 9:30 a.m. (Check-in will open at 8:00 a.m.)
- Each participant, Junior or Senior level, will compose a speech covering one of the following topics: Agribusiness, Agricultural Policy, Animal Science, Natural Resources, Plant Science, and Ag Innovation & Communications
- Speeches will be judged in either a Junior or Senior Age Division.
 - A. Juniors will be divided equally among available rooms.
 - B. Each Senior Division participant will be placed into one of six preliminary Sections based on the topic of their speech.
 - C. If a Section contains less than 8 participants but more than 3, the section will continue with 1 advancing from the room to Finals.
 - D. Sections with less than 3 participants will be consolidated into a Miscellaneous Topic Section.
 - E. When there are more than 15 in a section, it will be divided into two sub-sections with winners in the room advancing to Section Finals to determine the 2 Finalists.
- If there are more than one Junior speaking rooms, the Top 2 Juniors from each room will compete in the Junior Finals. Grand Champion will be awarded to the winner.
- In the event there is only one Junior speaking room, the top 3 contestants will advance to the Finals.
- The top 2 Seniors in each section of 8 or more will advance to the Senior Finals. If a section is split into sub-sections, the number of participants in each sub-section will determine the number to advance to Section Finals. The top 2 in the Section Finals will advance to the Senior Finals. Grand Champion will be awarded to the winner.
- Contestants will be assigned a contestant number and be placed in a random speaking order in their respective sections. Speaking orders will be posted the day of the contest, and are subject to change slightly based on scratches, disqualifications, etc.
- There will be no “Stand and Deliver” portion of the Finals for 2021.

5. **Tentative Schedule:** Schedule may be adjusted as registrations are received and will be updated on the Public Speaking page on the ETSF website.

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.: Contest Check-in
- 9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.: Contestant Orientation
- 9:30 a.m. - Preliminary Rounds begin
- 12:15 p.m. (approximately): Lunch

Finals rounds for Junior and Senior will immediately follow the tabulation results of their respective preliminary rounds. Awards will follow the completion of each finals round.

6. Dress Attire: Business professional attire is strongly recommended, and may include FFA Official Dress or Official 4-H attire. Failure to dress appropriately may result in a loss of points.

7. Time of Speeches:

- Junior Age Division: Each speech shall be a minimum of 5 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes.
- Senior Age Division: Each speech shall be a minimum of 6 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes.
- Questions and Answers: A five-minute question/answer period will follow each speech.
- Deductions: Points will be deducted from both Junior and Senior speakers as follows:
 - Under minimum time - 1 point deducted per second under
 - Over maximum time- 1 point deducted per second over

8. Props: The use of props of any kind is prohibited. Notecards are permitted, but only as a reference tool for the speaker.

9. Categories: Each contestant will enter their speech in one of six categories. Categories must be designated at time of entry. A contestant may enter in only one category. The contestant must select the category which best fits the speech.

Agribusiness: Any current and future subject that deals with topics such as cooperatives, sales, service, communications, entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, commodities, hedging, advertising, etc.

Agricultural Policy: Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as domestic farm issues, international trade, international competition, rural economic development, legal issues, animal rights, subsidies, price supports, etc.

Ag Innovation and Communications: Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as biotechnology, biogenetics, bioengineering, mechanical engineering, new agri-technology applications, global positioning and other satellite technology, computer applications, etc., and the communication of and/or advocacy for these and other agriculture issues.

Animal Science: Any current or future subject that deals with any aspects of the dairy,] equine, poultry, sheep, goat, swine, beef or specialty animal industries.

Natural Resources: Any current or future subject that deals with topics such as soil, water, air,

water quality, wildlife, forestry, aquaculture, conservation, recreation, recycling, energy environmental issues, etc.

Plant Science: Any current or future subject that deals with any aspect of the horticulture and/or agronomy industries including floriculture, fruit and/or vegetable production, nursery operations, turf and landscape management, crop production, or specialty crop production.

10. Awards

- Finalists from each Prelim Section receive a Finalist ribbon
- Section winners receive a banner
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in each level receive a plaque.
- 1st Place in each level receives a belt buckle.